

## Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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R 161803Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1869

UNCLAS MEXICO 11085

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: CASE TEVIEW OF ALL AMERICANPRISONERS IN MEXICO:

TAYLOR, PAXTON LEE

REF STATE 194199

1. DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS: PER STARK MATERIAL, TAYLOR ALLEGES HE WWAS NOT ALLOWED TO CALL EMBASSY AT TIME OF ARREST DEC. 23, 19733 AND WAS HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR TTEN DAYS. PER POST FILES, EEMB LEARNED OF ARREST 1/3/74 (NO INDICATION IN FILE OF HOW). RECORD OF FIRST CONOFF VISIT CONTAINS NO MENTION OF INABILITY TO CONTACT EMBASSY; TAYLOR HAD NO REQUEEEESTS TO EMBASSY AND STATED HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH THOSE IN US HEWISHEEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH. PROBLEM OF EARLY CONSULAR ACCESS IS MATTTTTTER OF CONTINUING CONCERN

WHICH EMBASSY CONTINUES TO PURSUEE WITH MEXICAN AUTHORITIES.

2. CONSULAR VISITATIONS: PER STARK MATERIAL, TAYLOR ALLEGES HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY CONSULAR OFFICER ATTT FOUR MONTH INTERVALS. ACCORDIING TO POST FILES, CONOFF VISITED PRISON AT LEAST MONTHLY DURING 1974 AND AT LEAST TWICE MONTHLY IN 1975, BUT TAYLOR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HAS DECLINED TO APPEAR OR HAD NOTHING TO SAY.

3. COMMISSIONED WORK: IN CONOFF VISIT 9/19/74 TAYLOR INDICATED HE WANTEEEED COMMISSIONED JOB; ON 4/11/75& HE TOLD CONOFF HE UNCLASSIFIED

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HAD PAID FOR COMISSIONED JOB BUT NEVER RECEIVED ITT. SINCE

TRANSFER TO SANTA MARTTA PRISON LATER IN APRIL, HE HAS BEEN WORKING AND IS SATISFIED THAT HE IS GETTING FULL CREDIT FOR

THE COMMISSION.

4. POSSIBLE EXTORTION BY ATTORNEY: TAYLOR STATES PER STARK MATERIAL THAT HE RETAINED LIC. ALFREDO BENEVENDO TWO WEEKS UNTIL TRANSFERRED CASE TO LIC. MANUEL BRITO MORENO. HE SAID HE WAS WILLING TO PAY QUOTE REASONABLE UNQUOTE 500 DOLLARS TO BENEVENDO FOR TWO WEEKS SERVICES, BUT THAT HIS FRIENDS AGREED TO PAY 3000 DOLLARS WHEN BENEVENDO ALLEGEDLY THREATENED THAT A QUOTE SERIOUS ACCIDENT UNQUOTE MIGHT HAPPEN TO TAYLOR. TAYLOR STATES HE PAID BRITO MORENO 16,500 DOLLARS UPON BRITO'S PROMISE TO HAVE HIM RELEASED IMMEDIATELY, BUT THAT HE HAD SEEN BRITO ONLY THREE TIMES IN FOURTEEN MONTHS. TAYLOR ALSO CLAIMED BRITO

MORENO WAS RECOMMENDED BY A LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF THE EMBASSY NAMED SANTOS TO FRIENDS OF HIS IN MID-JANUARY 1974. NOTE IN EMBASSY FILE DATED JAN. 30, 1974, INDICATES TAYLOR'S ATTORNEY AT THAT TIME WAS CALLED ROSA GAMUNDI. ONLY MALE EMBASSY EMPLOYEE NAMED SANTOS IS LIBORIO SANTOS OF CCS. IN NO PARTICULAR CONTEXT, CCS CHIEF ASKED SANTOS IF HE KNEW ATTORNEY NAMED BRITO MORENO. SANTOS SAID HE HAD HEARD OF HIM BUT DID NOT KNOW HIM PERSONALLY. HE SAID BRITO WAS WELL-KNOWN LAWYER, BUT VERY ELDERLY, AND HE DID NOT

KNOW IF HE WERE STILL PRACTICING. SANTOS WAS THEN ASKED IF HE HAD EVER RECOMMENDED BRITO. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT, THAT HE ALWAYS GAVE EMBASSY LIST OF ATTORNEYS TO INQUIRERS OR LISTED THE NAMES OF AT LEAST THREE TO TELEPHONE CALLERS. BRITO NOT ON EMBASSY LIST. SANTOS WAS FINALLY CONFRONTED WITH TAYLOR'S SPECIFIC CHARGE, WHICH HE DENIED. SANTOS DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IF HE HAD BEEN ASKED WHETHER BRITO MORENO WAS A GOOD LAWYER, HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY, BASED ON HIS KNOWLEDGE OF BRITO'S REPUTATION. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A TRUTHFUL ANSWER INsofar AS HE WAS CONCERNED, BUT NOT RECOMMENDATION. EMBASSY SATISFIED THAT SANTOS UNCLASSIFIED

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DID NOT RECOMMEND BRITO.

5. MISTREATMENT AT TIME OF ARREST/FORCED CONFESSION: PER STARK MATERIAL, TAYLOR ALLEGED IN JULY 1974 THAT AT TIME

OF ARREST HE WAS TORTURED BY FISTS AND ELECTRIC SHOCKS AND THREATENED WITH RAPE AND ABUSE OF HIS FEMALE

TRAVELLING COMPANION, WHO WAS ALSO ARRESTED. HE STATED THAT ON THE DAY FOLLOWING ARREST, HE WAS TOLD THAT HE WOULD BE BEATEN IF HE DID NOT SIGN CONFESSION. ACCORDING TO POST FIELD, CONOFF RECORD OF FIRST VISIT ONE MONTH AFTER ARREST CONTAINS NO MENTION OF COMPLAINT BY TAYLOR OF MISTREATMENT OR FORCED CONFESSION, RECORD OF SUBSEQUENT VISITS ALSO MENTIONS NO COMPLAINT OF THIS NATURE. DUE TO DIFFICULTY OF SUBSTANTIATING COMPLAINT RAISED SEVEN MONTHS AFTER ALLEGED MISTREATMENT, NO ACTION APPEARS FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME.

6. MISTREATMENT WHILE IN PRISON: PER STARK MATERIAL, TAYLOR

ALLEGED HE WAS ABUSED IN PRISON BY FORCED WORK DETAIL BECAUSE HE DID NOT PAY EXTORTION MONEY OF 2000 DOLLARS DEMANDED BY MAYOREES. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS, HE PAID 1000 DOLLARS TO GET OFF WORK DETAIL. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE FEARED PHYSICAL HARM FROM OTHER PRISONERS AND ALSO POSSIBILITY OF MURDER. EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN NO RECORD OF COMPLAINTS BY TAYLOR DURING THE SEVERAL INTERVIEWS WITH CONOFF DURING THE PERIOD IN QUESTION. TAYLOR WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PRISON IN APRIL 1975 AND HAS COMPLAINED ONLY ABOUT THE FOOD THERE. DUE TO LAPSE OF TIME SINCE ALLEGED EXTORTION/MISTREATMENT BY MAYORES AND FACT THAT NO COMPLAINT IS NOTED IN CONOFF RECORDS OF VISITS, IT NO LONGER APPEARS FEASIBLE TO INVESTIGATE THIS PARTICULAR CASE. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO SEEK REMEDY TO GENERAL PROBLEM OF ABUSE OF POWER BY MAYORES THROUGH FREQUENT VISITS

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AND CLOSE MONITORING OF CONDITIONS.  
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